

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 1850.

Democrat Nominations.
FOR THE SENATE,
NICHOLAS N. NIXON, Esq.
FOR THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,
JOHN D. POWERS,
WILLIAM HILL.

The writing Editor of this paper left home on Monday last, to attend the Democratic Convention, which assembled in Raleigh yesterday. During his absence, we must crave the indulgence of our readers.

The Democratic Convention which met at the Court House on Tuesday night last, was well attended. Every district in the county, with the exception of Long Creek, was represented. The proceedings will be found in this day's paper. Everything passed off harmoniously. There had been no caucusing, and scarcely any opinions interchanged between the delegates during the day. The delegates met together without any concert of action whatever, and every man seemed determined to do his duty, and present to the voters of New Hanover county a ticket that would be acceptable to the whole party. The selections are most excellent—NICHOLAS N. NIXON, Esq., of Topsail Sound, for the Senate; JOHN D. POWERS, Esq., of South Washington, and WILLIAM HILL, Esq., of Wilmington, for the Commons. We have never known any Convention to give more general satisfaction. It was conducted in the most friendly spirit, and in a most decided Democratic manner. There were no nominations made, or committees appointed to report candidates. Every delegate voted for the man of his choice, and the candidates that received a majority of two-thirds of all the votes, were afterwards declared unanimously chosen.

The Convention took no action with regard to nominating a candidate for Sheriff. Perhaps under all the circumstances, it was proper that they did not. Below will be found the correspondence between the Secretaries and the nominees of the Convention. It will be seen that they accept of the nomination. A letter, similar to the one addressed to Mr. NIXON, was also addressed to Messrs. HILL and POWERS.

Correspondence.

WILMINGTON, N. C., June 12th, 1850.
DEAR SIR:—Having been selected by the Democratic Convention assembled in this town on Tuesday, the 11th instant, to apprise you of the fact of your unanimous nomination as a candidate to represent the county of New Hanover in the Senate of the next General Assembly of this State, we with great pleasure comply with the duties imposed upon us, and at the same time respectfully solicit your acceptance.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,
J. M. STEVENSON.
L. H. BOWDEN,
Secretaries.

To N. N. NIXON, Esq.

PORTER'S NECK, June 13th, 1850.
GENTLEMEN—Your communication of the 12th instant is at hand, informing me that at a Democratic Convention held in Wilmington, on the evening of the 11th instant, I was unanimously nominated as a candidate to represent the county of New Hanover in the Senate of the next General Assembly of North Carolina.

In reply, I have only to say that I cannot disregard the call from so large and respectable a portion of the State, and I therefore accept the nomination. I will, however, do my best to merit your confidence, and through you to those whom you represent, considerations of my most unfeigned respect and regard, in conferring upon me so distinguished a mark of their confidence and honor.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

NICHOLAS N. NIXON.
To Messrs. J. M. STEVENSON and L. H. BOWDEN,
Secretaries.

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DEAR SIRS—Your communication, informing us of our unanimous nomination as candidates to represent this County in the Commons of the next General Assembly, has been received. In reply, we desire to say that we accept the nomination in the spirit with which it is tendered, and, if elected, will endeavor to deserve the confidence which the people repose in us.

With due sensibility to the honor of the nomination, and begging that you will accept our acknowledgements for the kind terms in which you have announced it,

We remain, most respectfully, yours, &c.,
W. HILL,
JOHN D. POWERS.

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COL. REID.—The Raleigh Standard of the 12th instant contains a letter from Col. DAVID S. REID, our candidate for Governor two years ago, in which he positively declines to permit his name to be brought before the Convention for nomination for Governor. The crowded state of our columns, and the want of time prevents us from publishing Col. R.'s letter.

The Democratic Review, for June, is on hand. An article on Military Presidents is the leading paper in the present number.

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THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW, for April, is also on our table. We have only had time to glace over two articles, "The Junction of the Atlantic and Pacific," and a review of HENDRICK CONSCIENCE's novel "Jacob von Arvelde," the republican hero of Flanders. Every American, of any literary pretensions, should take the Westminster, as though it alone can get a fair view of the movements of the Liberal party in Europe. \$3 per annum. LEONARD SCOTT & CO., New York.

Gold—Arrival of the Cherokee.

The Steamer Cherokee, arrived at New York on the 5th inst., with one million of gold dust on board, of which \$150,000 is consigned to Adams & Co.

The Alta California says, that three steamers have sailed from San Francisco since the 1st of March, with three and a half millions of gold.

New and rich placers have been found, and the supply of gold appears to be as abundant as ever. There are 6,000 persons at the Middle Fork, waiting for the high water to subside to enable them to commence operations.

TRADE is active, but transactions not large. The whole country is clamorous for admission into the American Union.

The Legislature had adjourned.

Oregon flour is quoted at \$9 50 a 10; Richmond at \$9 a 50. American rough lumber at \$23 a 24 per M.; Mess Park at \$25 a 28; Lard at 37 a 47c, and Potatoes 12 a 15c per lb.

HON. HENRY S. FOOTE is to deliver a 4th of July oration at Washington City, on the occasion of our approaching national anniversary.

Gen. Lopez has been arrested in New Orleans, and held to bail for his appearance before the judicial authorities of the City on Monday next.

Commercial, Thursday.

American Prisoners in Cuba.

We learn that the five persons belonging to the Cuban expedition, who were left, or remained on shore at Cardenas, and fell into the hands of the Spaniards, have been shot. Over one hundred prisoners belonging to the expedition, have also been taken by the Spanish vessels of War, on the Island of Contoy, or on the high seas, whom the Cuban authorities also threaten to put to death. Our Consul at Havana demanded that these latter prisoners should be given up to the United States as they had been taken on neutral territory, and had not violated the laws of Spain. The Governor made no reply to our Consul, who transmitted despatches to Washington, stating the facts, and calling for additional powers.

A demand has been made by this Government upon the Spanish authorities in Cuba, for the surrender of the prisoners, and stating that the arrest of Americans on any other island, or on the high seas, will not be recognized or permitted. It is also said that a United States Squadron has been ordered to Cuba to enforce this demand. There seems to be more trouble brewing. If the Spaniards dare put these prisoners to death, their days are numbered in Cuba. No Government could resist the public demand for war, and no earthly power could prevent the capture of the Island. As for the prisoners who were taken upon Cuban soil, and in the act of violating the laws of that country, although we may sympathise with them, we have no right to interfere.

Notices of Books.

The Practice of Medicine on Thompsonian Principles, adapted as well to the use of Families as to that of the Practitioner, &c. &c. By J. W. COMFORT, M. D. A. COMFORT, published, Philadelphia.

There is no fact in animal economy better established than the perennial coldness of a dog's nose—

Even in that season consecrated to the curios multitude, under the denomination of the "dog days," the canine snout is in a constant state of refrigeration. It is as cool as a cucumber—as a summer's morning—or as Secretary CRAWFORD pocketing the money for the GALPHIN claim. Perhaps these deep researches into natural history may seem a little out of place in a notice of a book on Thompsonian Medicine, but they naturally arise from our reminiscences of Dr. COMFORT; and his name at the head of this notice, has summoned up before our mind's eye a vision of a nose "so faint, so pale, so woe-begone," that it makes us shudder with cold to think of it. It is always cold. It looks un-comfortable, very. We once got a stiff neck by looking across a counter at it in the middle of summer, and then we doubted its reality until the proprietor produced a huge "Bada-nna," and subjected the suspicious feature to a series of manipulations, snortifications, and twistifications, that we felt convinced nothing but the genuine article. A No. 1, could have survived. Not all the red pepper and lobelia, which form the staple of the Thompsonian Materia Medica, could produce any effect upon that remarkable proboscis, and while it continues as it is, we can never think upon Dr. COMFORT without thinking upon his nose, nor of his nose without being reminded of the coldness of a dog's nose. A perfectly dogish association of ideas.

But the book. Aye, there's the rub. Well, the book is eleven inches long by six wide, and contains about six hundred pages, and though last, not least, cost us 33 cents postage. It tax to which we must not be subjected in future. It contains a whole system of Thompsonian Family Medicine, which will no doubt be highly beneficial to us, as we (the writer) have no family, and have not swallowed a dose of any kind of medicine within the memory of man. Seriously, though, we have no doubt that this man will be very valuable to heads of families, and be found to contain much useful information. We hope the publisher will, in future, remember that such things sent to *Editors* should be post-paid. A conscientious adherence to this rule, will prevent any further review of his cold nose.

Correspondence of the Mercury.

HAVANA, June 6, 1850.

GENTLEMEN:—Your communication of the 12th instant is at hand, informing me that at a Democratic Convention held in Wilmington, on the evening of the 11th instant, I was unanimously nominated as a candidate to represent the county of New Hanover in the Senate of the next General Assembly of North Carolina.

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Commercial, Thursday.

Important and Later from Havana.—Arrival of the United States Mail Steamer Isabel.

The steamer Isabel arrived at Charleston on the 11th inst. The news she brings from Cuba is not of a very pleasant nature, and if things have been conducted in the manner represented, serious consequences will most likely follow.

From the Charleston Mercury of the 11th inst.

The United States Mail Steamer Isabel, Capt. Rollins, arrived from Havana this morning, with her accustomed punctuality. She left Havana at 5 p. m. on the 8th; Key West, at 4 a. m. on the 9th, and reached her wharf at 8 o'clock this morning, making 63 hours from port to port, including the stoppage at Key West and Savannah. She brings 141 passengers.

By the label we have our files of papers and correspondence with the 8th inst. extracts from which will be found annexed.

The papers are mainly occupied with details connected with the late invasion of the Island. A large number of crosses and other honorary distinctions have been conferred on those who were prominent in repelling the invaders at Cardenas, while liberal contributions have been made for the support of the families of the killed and wounded on that occasion.

Much excitement still prevails throughout the Island, and the feelings of the old Spaniards and the Government officials run strong against Americans and the American Government.

The officers, crews, and passengers of the American vessels still remain in close confinement. Efforts have been made to torture to extract confessions from the captains of the Georgiana and Susan Loud, but in vain. They declared repeatedly that they regularly cleared from New Orleans for Chagres, as was confirmed by their papers, that they had no knowledge of the character or object of their passengers until the steamer Creole came alongside, when a number of them went on board of that vessel, and that they were proceeding on their course to Chagres when they were captured by the Spanish steamer.

The Captains were then suspended in the air by cords attached to their thumbs, but, despite the torture, they persisted in their statements.

Among the prisoners was a young lawyer from one of the Western States, whose symptoms of trepidation gave expectation that by working on his fears confessions might be obtained that would tend to criminate his companions. A halter was accordingly placed round his neck and cannon balls attached to his feet, and with the threat of immediate death hanging over him, under promise of pardon for himself and for some of his companions whom he named, he made certain disclosures upon which the authorities based their further proceedings.

The American Consul was peremptorily refused all access to or communication with the prisoners—To give a color, however, to the proceedings of the Court, the presence of the British Consul was invited. A strong disposition was manifested to dispose of the two American captains by a summary execution, but against this course the British Consul warmly remonstrated, and warned them that such a course would inevitably involve them in serious difficulties with the American Government. In consequence of these remonstrances the decision of the Court upon their case was postponed.

The chief Engineer of the Matanzas and Savanna Railroad died suddenly at Havana, and it was supposed by poison, but there is no doubt that his death was occasioned by over excitement and perplexity consequent upon the invasion at Cardenas.

We have been informed by highly intelligent gentlemen that the excitement and terror at Matanzas, Havana, and throughout the island, upon the spread of the intelligence of the landing at Cardenas, was extreme, and in many instances the authorities seemed perfectly paralysed. It is their opinion that if a thousand brave men, well appointed and well officered, had pushed on promptly from Cardenas, they could have placed themselves in the centre of the city of Havana without serious resistance.

A robbery having been committed in the printing office of the Panama Echo, on Sunday, the 12th May, and a trunk, belonging to Mr. Wm. Need, the editor of that paper, containing some six or eight hundred dollars in money values, taken therefrom, suspicion, from a variety of circumstances, fastened upon a colored boy, named Angelino Cardenas, of St. Johns, Nicaragua, who had been employed about the office.

After being charged with the theft, he tacitly admitted it, and promised to return the trunk to the office, but failing to do so, he was confined in a room by Mr. Morel, the proprietor of the Echo, for near a day, when, towards evening, he said if any person would go with him, he would show them where the trunk was, protesting this time, however, that he did not take it; but that a boy who was with him did.

Mr. Need and Mr. O. M. Vinton accompanied the boy outside the walls of the place where he said the trunk was hid. The natives of the suburbs were informed by the boy that the Americans were taking him out to hang him, and forthwith they rushed to the rescue with rocks, clubs, and knives, and seizing the boy, soon put his keepers to flight.

On the subsequent day, these facts were made known to the Governor, by the Natives on the one side and Mr. Need and a friend on the other. Shortly afterwards the boy was arrested by Mr. G. W. Morris and a few others, to whom he again confessed that he took the trunk, and would show them where it might be found.

He was taken to the printing office, a crowd of his suburban allies following closely after, who, on their arrival there, commenced a furious assault on the windows and inmates, with rocks, clubs, knives, etc. The fracas lasted some fifteen or twenty minutes, during which a quiet and peaceable citizen from N. York, Mr. Wm. A. Semper, was pierced by a knife, and stabbed in several places, causing his almost instant death.

For the Journal.
Democratic Convention.

At a Convention of the Delegates of New Hanover county, held in Wilmington, on the 11th inst., for the purpose of nominating candidates for the next General Assembly, it was moved by Wm. C. Bettencourt, Esq., that D. S. Sanders, Esq., be called to the chair: He further moved, that J. M. Stevenson and L. H. Bowden be appointed Secretaries. The Convention being organized, the chairman briefly but lucidly stated the object of the meeting, and thanked the Convention for the honor conferred upon him.

Delegates being called for, the following gentlemen answered to their names:

Wm. C. Bettencourt, Jas. Alderman, J. I. Bryan, Thomas H. Howey, C. C. Morse, Daniel S. Sanders, J. M. Stevenson, John A. Sanders, Obed. Alexander, D. Gorno, J. W. Howard, Charles W. Nixon, R. J. Howard, J. Rochell, John Shepherd, David McIntire, L. H. Bowden, M. C. Collins, Thos. H. Tate, G. W. Croom, Thos. Pigford, Dr. Newkirk, R. C. Murphy, Jas. Carr, Jas. McDuffy, Dr. J. F. Simpson, Owen Alderman, Thos. J. Malpass, Jas. M. Alderman, W. H. Henry Joseph Pickett.

Moved by Mr. J. I. Bryan, that every delegate have a vote. Adopted.

On motion of Thomas Tate, Esq., the two-thirds rule was adopted.

On motion of John Shepard, Esq., it was resolved that the Convention vote by ballot.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot. The result of which was, N. N. Nixon, Esq., was nominated a candidate for the Senate; J. D. Powers and William Hill, Esq., candidates for the Commons.

Moved and carried, that these gentlemen be unanimously nominated.

The following resolution offered by Mr. Thomas H. Howey, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the people of New Hanover are due, and are hereby tendered to the Senator and Commoners from this county, for the ability and liberality that marked their conduct at the last session of the General Assembly.

Moved by Mr. Bettencourt, that the Secretaries be appointed to wait upon Messrs. Nixon, Powers, and Hill, and apprise them of their nomination, and request their acceptance.

On motion of Dr. J. F. Simpson, the thanks of the Convention were tendered the Chairman and Secretaries.

Moved by Mr. Bettencourt, that the proceedings of this Convention be published in the Wilmington Journal and Aurora.

Moved by Dr. McIntire, that the Convention adjourn till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

New Hanover. Only three months ago the Long Creek Division was opened, under the most unfavorable auspices; we soon find South Washington opening a Division, and Moore's Creek asking for a charter, and other places in the County are making efforts to open new Divisions. Where once the blasphemous oath arose, now brotherly love reigns, and soon peace and plenty will dwell within our borders.

LONG CREEK.
NASHVILLE, June 5—9 P. M.

The convention assembled according to adjournment, at 10 o'clock this morning, and after prayer and the reading of the proceedings of yesterday, proceeded to open new Divisions. Where once the blasphemous oath arose, now brotherly love reigns, and soon peace and plenty will dwell within our borders.

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Moved by Mr. Bettencourt, that the proceedings of this Convention be published in the Wilmington Journal and Aurora.

Moved by Dr. McIntire, that the Convention adjourn till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Southern Convention—Third Day.

NASHVILLE, June 5—9 P. M.

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Moved by Mr. Bettencourt, that the proceedings of this Convention be published in the Wilmington Journal and Aurora.

Moved by Dr. McIntire, that the Convention adjourn till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Fourth Day.

NASHVILLE, June 6—P. M.

The convention assembled this morning, at the appointed hour, and proceeded to business.

The Chairman then addressed the Convention, expressing satisfaction with the proceedings, ardor and unanimity which characterized it.

DANIEL S. SANDERS, Ch'n.

J. M. STEVENSON, L. H. BOWDEN, Sec's.

For the Journal.

MR. EDITOR—Glancing over the pages of the Wilmington Aurora, of June 1st, I notice an article headed "Medical Society of North Carolina," and on examination of the Editor's remarks, I find he entirely coincides with me in reference to what we should do.

I ask, through the columns of your paper, to institute the inquiry—Why does not North Carolina establish a Medical School within her own borders? She has Medical men of the first talent; and as a proof of this assertion, where has been a more intricate case in Surgery than the one performed by your Dr. DICKSON on MURRAY of Duplin, and where is a more scientific practitioner in Medicine than your McKEE, Sen., and where are superiors to ROBINSON, STRUDWICK, CAMERON, PITMAN, and many others that might be mentioned? And then, why is it that our young men have to go abroad to get the necessary qualifications for the practice of Medicine? Reason, common sense, establish a Medical School with in your own borders; save your young men the trouble and expense of going to other States for the benefit of Medical Lectures; and, above all, save within your own State the means necessarily employed in making this foreign preparation.

Mr. Campbell of Alabama, submitted resolutions in regard to the reclamation of fugitive slaves, taking strong grounds against the States which had refused or neglected to restore such fugitives. Referred.

The same gentleman presented a second series of resolutions, declaring all the States on an equality, without distinction; that it is their duty to preserve their domestic institutions; that there is no power in Congress to interfere with them; that it was a gross usurpation of power in Congress to discriminate in regard to the position States should occupy relating to new territory without State privileges.

Mr. Dupertuis of Florida, submitted a series of resolutions, which have thus far been offered in regard to the great leading subject for which the Convention assembled, have been mild and conciliatory, but firm and determined.

The general impression prevails that the Convention will eventually recommend a compromise, and probably decide upon the Missouri compromise; then adjourn to meet again in October next.

The secretary proceeded to call upon the several States for positions to be referred to the standing committee.

Virginia being called, Judge Tucker, of that State, proposed a series of propositions. He would not use the word resolved, for it implies the opinion already expressed, and would be regarded in a wrong light.

The propositions stated that conquered territory belonged to the several States collectively—Congress had no right to pass laws disposing of it—discriminating who shall buy, making it advantageous to some and disadvantageous to others. Also declaring the Wilmett proviso unconstitutional; that the South was justifiable in resisting it at all hazards and to the last extremity; that those States opposed to the Wilmett proviso are yet more bound to resist the claim of southerners not permanent residents to make laws over new territory. Referred.

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

WILMINGTON, N. C., MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1850.

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[SELECTED FOR THE "JOURNAL," BY A LADY.]

From the Odd Fellows' Offering

The Witch.

By T. H. MATTESON.

Late in the afternoon of a sultry day in the latter part of August, 18—, a middle-aged man, weary and dusty with travel, paused at the door of a farmhouse in the suburbs of the little village of S. Over his shoulder, suspended by a staff, he bore a bundle of extraordinary capacity, and led by the hand a child, a sweet blue-eyed, golden-haired, serious-looking girl, of some six or seven years. A fresh matronly woman was standing in the door, when they made their appearance, and as their footsteps seemed bent toward her threshold, she smiled upon them as if in welcome. Emboldened by this evidence of cordiality, the man ventured to ask her, in modest phrase, for a cup of water. "Would she be so kind?"

Of course she would, and ran with alacrity to bring it. After offering it to the little girl, who drank sparingly, the man placed the cup to his lips, and inhaled a long, deep draught. His thirst was evidently intense, for he never paused from the moment he raised the cup till he had drained it of its refreshing contents; and when he set it down, big drops of sweat like great glass beads, stood upon his brow.

"Could I be permitted to rest a moment at the door, kind mother?" said the girl.

"Of course!" said she, welcome to all the hospitalities of the house, "and with a cheerful smile she entreated them to enter and repose themselves as long as they liked.

The man, who had been seated upon the doorstep, rose to avail himself of the proffered kindness, when he was observed to falter and turn pale. The kind mistress of the cottage stepped forward, took him by the arm, and led him gently forward, followed by the child. When they had entered the house, he grew paler still; and leaned more heavily still upon the arm by which he was supported. He made an effort to speak, extended his hands as if he were groping for something in the dark—the next moment he was upon the floor. He was dead.

The poor child was too young to comprehend the appalling nature of the calamity, but an indefinable dread stole into her heart, and she shuddered and wrung her hands in affright.

The husband of the hospitable mistress of the mansion soon after came in, examined the man as he still lay on the floor—for the poor woman was amazed at the suddenness of the event that she had not stirred from the moment of the fall—and started at once in search of a physician. He came, but of course, his visit was fruitless. In due time a coroner's jury was summoned, who rendered a verdict of "Death by drinking cold water." Two days after, the man was followed to his grave by a few kind-hearted villagers, and the young child as the only mourner. She looked down into the grave, as the coffin was lowered to its place, then wistfully into the faces of those around her, and clung affrighted to the kind woman who had been the innocent cause of her orphanage.

"Dust to dust!" and the earth rattled dolefully upon the coffin-lid—slutting out, forever, the last token of the last friend the child had on earth—except those whom God who tempts the wind to the shorn lamb, had already provided for her.

She was adopted into the family of the good man whose threshold her father had passed out of life into eternity. Did providence guide his footsteps thither? There is no impiety in believing that Providence does sometimes lead the unfortunate, by inscrutable means, when they are abroad upon the dangerous paths of life.

The name of the deceased, it was found, on examination of the contents of his bundle, was Manchester, and the child, her mother, was Mary. Letters were found in his person, but little of them could be made out by his history, and the packages, carefully sealed and addressed—"To my daughter Mary," he opened when she shall have attained her eighteenth year." This might have solved the mystery, but in the eyes of his friend into whose hands the child had fallen, it was deemed sacred, and placed where it would be securely preserved. All that could be learned from the child was, that they had travelled a long way, sometimes by water, sometimes by stage, and sometimes, though rarely, on foot. They gathered from her, that the reason of their being on foot this time was that her father wanted to change their route; and there was no public conveyance across from one to the other. The distance being not more than five or six miles, doubtless he thought it best to walk it, and with the heat of the day, and the fatigue of carrying the child the greater part of the distance in his arms, his strength was exhausted. The child gave evidence of an active intellect, mild temper, and for one so young, nice cultivation. She had no recollections of a mother. As far back as her recollection went, she had lived alone with her father. Whenever she mentioned his name, now that she began to understand that she would see him no more, she wept bitterly. Lonely orphan! how happy was thy lot, compared with that of thousands that throng our streets daily!

It is now twelve years since our little friend Mary was left an orphan. Twelve years in youth change the complexion of one's life marvellously. Time has dealt kindly with her. She is now eighteen—almost a woman—and such a woman! She has just entered her little chamber, and seated herself by the window, where the moonlight fills up all her noble brow, and *gracilis*, in painter's phrase, over her beautifully-modelled neck and shoulders. The warm brown color of her falling hair contrasts finely with the cold light, and the picture is indeed a harmonious one. For a moment she leans her cheek pensively upon her hand; then, as if a new thought had occurred to her, she starts hastily up, and approaches a little cherry bureau, opens the drawer, and takes out a sealed packet; she is agitated, and trembles violently. It contains the story of her origin. For a moment she gazes earnestly upon it, something bright upon her eyelids glitters in the moonlight—slowly, it wanders on her neck, and drops silently upon her packet. Now she raises the packet reverently to her lips, and with trembling fingers breaks the seal. With what eagerness she strives by the feeble light, to decipher its contents! All she can make out is, "My darling child," when she is blinded by her tears. It is a luxury she seldom enjoys, for her kind friends have been too busy of her happiness to furnish her the "motive and the cue." Tears are sometimes a luxury, but only with the young. When the middle-aged and the old weep, be sure the fountain is opened by deep misery, and the waters are bitter.

One cold night, blowing aside her luxuriant tresses and rustling the leaves of the packet, recalls her to herself. She closes the window, procures a light, and seats herself by her little table. Here is the substance of what she reads:

"My darling child, the uncertainty of life and the possibility that you may perhaps be at a distance, due to your mother's death, with whom you have no knowledge of the history of your parents, have prompted me to place at your future disposal the following brief narrative. I have delayed the period of your being made acquainted with the circumstances, until you shall have reached your eighteenth year, in order that you may be better qualified to judge of the motives by which I have been actuated, and the long train of suffering which has impelled me, at length, to become an alien to the home of my birth."

Here follows his family history, the date of his birth, and other circumstances, of no interest to the general reader. We resume the narrative at a late point:

"At the age of twenty-five, I married your mother. Young, beautiful, and of good family, I fondly dreamt that she was every way qualified to render my life happy. Too late I discovered my mistake! She was an only child, and, of course, had ever been an idol to her friends. Her life had been a smooth, unbroken current, her every wish gratified as soon as uttered, and nothing was ever suffered to cross her humor. Borne thus evenly upon the current of life, she was wholly unfitted for any storm that might overtake her; and though you may not now understand it, you will in time, that a woman thus nurtured is altogether unsuited to the cares of more mature life."

"Adversity, like the toad, though ugly and venomous, still bears within its head a precious jewel."

My own employments were of such a character as to

engross the greater share of my time and attention. In addition to this I had involved myself in embarrassments, by becoming security for a near friend, and my ingenuity and industry were largely taxed to prevent absolute ruin. For all these manifold perplexities your mother had no sympathy, and could not understand why they should prey upon my mind, or why they should in any way interrupt the comparatively idle and pleasurable mode of life in which we had formerly indulged. She was discontented and restless, under the partial restraint I was compelled to exercise in my expenditures, and the amount of time I was obliged to devote to affairs of business—on account of which she was left to seek her own sources of amusement. Content and happiness had no existence for her, except in the bustle and excitement of society. Her home was anywhere but at home. I do not urge this as a fault in her alone; it was the result of the system by which she had been educated.

"At the time of your birth, I fondly trusted that she would no longer look beyond her own domestic circle for enjoyment; that she now possessed an object calculated to engage all her sympathies, and a tie that would bind her to the more active and permanent duties of life. For a time my anticipations were realized. It was but for a few months, for the novelty wore off, and she required you only in the light of a bar to the liberal enjoyment of the trifling pleasures of life, in the midst of which she had been reared. It is now evident to which I shall be compelled to oblige to write thus of your mother, but it is only by placing before you a plain statement of facts, that I can ever hope to exculpate myself from the seeming brutality, in taking you from under her charge. I have not yet placed before you the worst, or anything like the most criminal course of conduct by which I was impelled to that dreadful alternative. Alas no! would that I could blot from my memory what I am about to write! Day or night it haunts me like a goblin. Sleeping or waking, the fearful drama is acted over in my fevered imagination, and will one day drive me mad. But I am swerving from the rule I had imposed upon myself, in compiling this narrative, which was, to avoid all display of feeling, leaving you to judge what I must have endured under the trials imposed upon me.

"Once, and once again, was I charged with neglect and alienation of affection: not only by her, but by her friends, to whom she freely related her grievances. I need not say that I was annoyed by these charges, at the same time that I was resolved to persevere in my determination to look well, and constantly, to the real welfare of those beings—my wife and little daughter—who comprised the sum of my being. It was not understood—that I knew—nevertheless, consciousness of right motives, and unceasing diligence in the pursuit of my object—a release from all dependence upon others—kept me from despair. In a little time, my object would have been accomplished—when fate drew a circle around our home, and it was accursed.

"The poet says:—

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."

There is also another tide, upon which, if man once gets afloat, no human exertion can save him. If within the eddies of misfortune, by little and more than gain upon him—he becomes perplexed—makes an effort to push out of their influence, but in the attempt, involves himself in fresh and more overwhelming difficulties; every moment the whirl of waters becomes more apparent—he grows giddy and bewildered in the maze—and finally yields passively to what he cannot control. The circle narrows, and the velocity of motion increases, till one tumultuous flood swallows him up forever.

"Among my creditors was one who was in the constant habit of visiting our house, and his frank, easy manners, cheerful temper, and attractive person, made him an especial favorite with your mother. He was emphatically a man of leisure, since his whole time was squandered in frivolous amusements, and he was particularly devoted in his attention to females. I was satisfied to know that your mother had without ever considering the consequences of such intimacy. This may seem strange to others, but I have already given you the key to my blindness to what was going on around me—namely, the determination of this little family from beggary. They were in the habit of walking, talking, and singing together; but my blind confidence in the straightforwardness of your mother's integrity, disengaged me in those circumstances but a disposition on the part of the idle people to kill time."

"My daughter Mary," said the child, "My daughter was one who was in the constant habit of visiting our house, and his frank, easy manners, cheerful temper, and attractive person, made him an especial favorite with your mother. He was emphatically a man of leisure, since his whole time was squandered in frivolous amusements, and he was particularly devoted in his attention to females. I was satisfied to know that your mother had without ever considering the consequences of such intimacy. This may seem strange to others, but I have already given you the key to my blindness to what was going on around me—namely, the determination of this little family from beggary. They were in the habit of walking, talking, and singing together; but my blind confidence in the straightforwardness of your mother's integrity, disengaged me in those circumstances but a disposition on the part of the idle people to kill time."

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